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No. 676 Twopence February, 1960

THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

The recent Watchnight service at Renshaw Street Chapel with the Minister, the Rev. B. L. Hopkin, in the pulpit.

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Unitarians are acclaiming the test publication of the Lindsey ress, "Essays in Unitarian heology." What are the impres- ons of the keenest thinkers out- de the movement? The March *nitarian* will contain a review of ie book by Professor I. T. Ramsey, olloth Professor of the Philosophy the Christian Religion in the niversity of Oxford, and author of Religious Language."

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MANCHESTER DOMESTIC MISSION SOCIETY

By T. W. Roberts

Following a visit of Dr. Joseph Tuckerman, of Boston, U.S.A., to this country, after reports of his activities in the United States, the M.D.M. Society appointed a Missionary, John Ashworth, who commenced his labours in the Harpurhey district on January 1st, 1833, and the centenary of the Society was celebrated with due honours in 1933.

About 26 years after the foundation of the Society it was found by visiting students from the Home Missionary Board (now U.C.M.) that there was a new and suitable field of labour in Hulme, and that district was chosen for the expansion of the work of the Mission Society.

A room in Tomlinson Street was obtained for use as a Mission Station in charge of Students of the Board, and services were first held there on May 1st, 1859, and it is this occasion which the Renshaw Street Mission people are celebrating during the current year by holding Special Services with distinguished visitors, the most notable of whom are Rev. Dr. R. Pierce, of Boston, U.S.A., who is responsible for similar work in that city, and Sir John Russell, D.Sc., F.R.S., who in his student days in Manchester did a lot of mission work in Hulme, which he has described in his book "The Land Called Me."

In a very short time after commencing their activities in 1859 with about a dozen Sunday school scholars there was an attendance of 90 in the morning and 120 in the evening with about 20 teachers. The activities also included week-day and evening schools for boys and girls. This was of course before the passing of the Forster Education Act of 1870, and the mission work was greatly increased by the effect of the American Civil War on the Manchester cotton trade when distress in the homes was felt most keenly. A soup kitchen was opened where over eighty families were served twice a week with a quart of soup and a pound of bread. In the winter of 1861 nearly half a million people in Lancashire and Cheshire were in receipt of relief and to the mission at Tomlinson Street belonged the honour of starting the first sewing school for factory girls and after tuition the remuneration for work done often kept a family from absolute starvation.

The inadequacy of the premises at Tomlinson Street was becoming apparent and in 1865 it was decided to erect a new building in Embo Street which was opened in Nove ber, 1868, including a day school, a the Tomlinson Street premises w closed. Before the passing of 1870 Act there was a considera speed-up in the provision of fac ties for elementary education, a at Hulme the numbers on the boo of the day school went up in o year by 268 so that the day sch was now becoming a serious resp sibility, and after the passing of Act the total was increased to 5 from about 300 different hom about 50 of whom were orphans. T Government grant for the scholars was £147 13s. per annu This increase in numbers w hampered by the lack of accomm dation in the infant department a in 1874 H.M. Inspector condemn the accommodation as unsatisf

INTERNATIONAL SUNDA 1960

International Sunday falls on more on the first Sunday in Febr ary, and all our churches are bei asked to observe this occasion considering the work of the Int national Association for Liber Christianity and Religious Freedo commonly known in all parts of t world as IARF, and by taking a c lection for or otherwise contrib ting to the funds of the Associatio With its member-groups in Europ America and Asia, this organisati is able to give encouragement a a sense of fellowship to religio liberals who are in a minority their country or church, and make them feel that they are pa of a great company. Its actitiviti may be read about in the quarter "Digest" which is sent free to personal members and churches wh subscribe at least 10s. per annu A specimen copy will be gladly di patched gratis on application to t Personal Members Secretary, Re Kenneth Twinn, Harrison Parso age, Atherton, Manchester, whom both personal subscriptio and church subscriptions or colle tions for 1960 should be sent.

y, although he commended the ruction given, and said no ther grant would be given unless re accommodation was provided. e Society therefore had to con- r the erection of a new infant ool, completed in 1875. The day ool work became an increasing in on the resources of the iety within the next few years, in 1880 the Society decided to the Embden Street site and dings to the Manchester School rd, and after occupation of tem- ary premises purchased a site on shaw Street on which the ent Mission premises were ted and opened in October, 1883, n on October 14th the Sunday ning sermon was preached by Rev. W. Gaskell and evening he Rev. S. A. Steinthal.

nis enabled the Society to con- rate on the social work of the ionary enterprise, and the need be gathered by the observations social conditions found by Sir Russell during his visits to ne as a university student in the stry of the Rev. Sydney Street, h he has detailed in his bio- hy. Readers of Sir John's book the annual reports of the Mis- for that period will agree, that conditions were appalling, and ssitated a "Ministry to the " which was the aim of the ders of the Society, but with the t of the "Welfare State" y people think there is no neces- for such a mission as there are, ould be, no poor. In another the Mission is just as neces- especially for the guidance of younger folk, who very often that "Key of the Street" n Gilbert Chesterton con- ed such an advantage to les Dickens in the writing of ovels, but which can hardly be ch use to the majority of those njoy this doubtful facility, and hom the open-door of the Ren- Street Mission is an absolute sity.

seen, for example, in the film ry from the Streets," we shall still require the answers to children's questions such as "Why do you have to go to Church if God is every- where?" or "Daddy, who made God?"

CHILDERN'S CORNER

Snow Joke

We were having a discussion about the weather and Dad was quite definite.

"There'll be snow or fog or both before long," he said.

"How d'you make that out, Dad?" I said.

"A treacherous month, February," he replied. "Always is. So far in these parts we've had no snow or fog to speak of and we've got through January. Mark my words, February's going to be a shocker!"

Mum said it made her shiver just to hear him talk like that and she wished he wouldn't. But, do you know?—during the night the snow fell; and in the morning it lay inches thick all over everything.

"Well, I was right," said Dad proudly.

"Yes, you were," Mum put in. "You're too good a prophet. Well, go and get the shovel."

"Go and get the what?" asked Dad in what you might call an aggrieved tone.

"Go and get the shovel," repeated Mum. "We've got to have the path and pavement cleared for a start— then you can do the bit round the back."

Dad was shaken.

"You seemed to be very keen on getting us some snow," Mum went on, "now we've got it; and some of it wants moving."

"Now, just a minute," said Dad, a bit desperately I thought, "what about Raymond? What's he —"

But that's all I heard and it was rather faint as I pulled the front door after me.

So Dad cleared the snow and then gave me a good telling-off.

He doesn't talk much about the weather at the moment. You see, we haven't had the fog yet; and Mum keeps making remarks about

pea-soup and smog-masks. But it's a funny thing: this morning I saw four smog-masks on the table. I looked at Dad and he looked at Mum; and Mum didn't look at anyone in particular. I expect in the morning —well as somebody said, you never can tell, can you?

"TO ENDURE HARDNESS"

By Bruce Findlow

This is the month of the hard weather—the snow, ice and cold which seem at times to be living enemies to be wrestled with and overcome. For a week or a month or six weeks every winter there is this hard unrelenting period to live through as best we can; helped by efficient heating in the house, warm clothes, snow boots and good health. The cold of mid-winter hits worst those who lack the help of such things in enduring hardness.

In a more general way the Third Service in Orders of worship speaks of this task: "We come not to ask him to make our way easy for us, but rather that he would teach us to endure hardness." How does God teach us to endure the hardness of life?

Most of all, I think, by showing us, through his greatest sons, that it is wise to accept all that life brings to us; the hard as well as the soft, the difficult as well as the easy. There is no future in blindly rebelling against difficulty, torment and sorrow. The future lies in fully accepting these dark moments when they come, for through acceptance comes understanding and out of understanding comes the power to survive trouble and indeed in the end turn it to good account.

St. John of the Cross was being quite practical when he wrote: "To endure all things with an equable and peaceful mind, not only brings with it many blessings to the soul, but also enables us, in the midst of our difficulties, to have a clear judgment about them, and to minister the fitting remedy for them." To which may be added the prayer of Alcoholics Anonymous: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

"Did you see that little girl had her eyes open during prayers?"

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Bullock, of Kidderminster, has recently moved to Sweden to take up an appointment as consultant metallurgist.

Well-known U.Y.P.Ler, Barrie Needham, of Altrincham, has passed examinations for admission to Pembroke College, Oxford.

"The Kentish Mercury" and London's "Star" and "Standard" all had reports of the "communal Christmas Day" at LEWISHAM. Several members of the congregation spent the whole of Christmas Day on the Church premises, a full Christmas dinner was served and doors were opened to anyone who cared to come—"no tickets, no theological affirmations, nothing to pay except what people chose to offer of their own accord." Thirty-six people sat down to dinner and at one part of the day more than fifty people were present. The Church premises were made as "home-like" as possible, a Father Christmas distributed presents to the children, and the day was concluded with a candlelight service at midnight.

NITARIAN STALWARTS

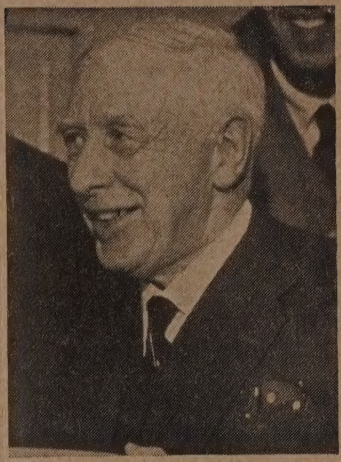
An Introduction by Frank Woolley

heir names and deeds may be gotten. Present generations may reaping in careless and unded joy. Indifference and apathy day may be greatly in evidence, there seems to be something unisfactory in the action of a sterity which preserves the names so relatively few of the many at and good men, who have been standing in the history of itarianism and the world nerally, and allows the names of many no less deserving of manity's tribute, to fade into ivion.

asting our minds back over a iod of time of more than threeurters of a century; recalling nething of the activities of the lwarts of this period and of our uaintance, what has impressed and caused us to pause and nk, has been the appeal which Unitarian spirit and way of life de to many outstanding men of lustrial, commercial, social and itical activities of the towns and es in which they have been miciled; men whose experience, lity, culture, capacity to lead, and se of leadership set an example the thoughtful youth and the proessively minded men of the period. thing but sickness kept these lwarts from the self-imposed ks and duties to their fellowmen. eir idealism, their convictions and ermination, was a silent reproof the indolent and indifferent, to easy-going and those of a alistic turn of mind.

We can visualise many of these lwarts and men of understanding, o are no longer with us.

Yet we look not only to the past, eat as our debt is, valuable as the son may be. We endeavour to ep our eye on those who are still dding on: those who may quicken r own vacillating enthusiasm and p.



UNITARIAN STALWARTS

Mr. T. M. Abraham, J.P.

One of the most honoured names in the town of Macclesfield is that of T. M. Abraham, J.P., who for more than twenty years has been Chairman of King Edward Street Chapel, and who celebrated his eightieth birthday on July 11th. The bulk of Mr. Abraham's activity has been devoted to the textile firm of John Abraham and Bro. Ltd., but it is for his long years of service to the community, and for his achievements in the realm of sport that he is probably best known. He was a member of the town council for no less than thirty-four years, during twenty-one of which he served as an alderman. The culmination of his public career was reached in 1933 when he became Mayor of Macclesfield; he was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1938. Many years ago, during a period of intense drought he was instrumental in ensuring the continuance of water supplies to the town. He was for many years

President of the Macclesfield St. John Ambulance Brigade, his wife being President of the Nursing Division; for his service he was awarded the highest honour of the movement, the Order of St. John.

In his younger days Tom Abraham made his mark both in local cricket and football, but it was as a golfer that he achieved his greatest successes. This was a sport which he shared with his wife and together they played in many tournaments in the North of England. Even when his playing days were over he took an active interest in the well-being of local sport; he has held office in many clubs and associations and is the oldest member of Macclesfield Golf Club.

Mr. Abraham has long been a champion of liberal religion and has found his spiritual home in the beautiful seventeenth century Unitarian Chapel, of which he is now Chairman. He has brought to that office the ability and wisdom which have always characterised his activities, and the members of the Chapel are not only grateful to him for his able leadership, but also proud that the fortunes of their church should be guided by so distinguished a citizen. A man of high principles, both in business and in public life, Mr. Abraham has always been a staunch advocate of Temperance and a firm believer in the value of religious education. He considers that the two greatest influences in his life were the Sunday School training he received and the devotion of his beloved wife, a lady who will long be remembered by all who knew her.

NEWS AND VIEWS

OVERSEAS CHURCHES

AUCKLAND, N.Z., calendar reports that "the Minister of Broadcasting has finally consented to grant Unitarians time on the air—once, maybe again later. We thank him, but we thank more the Radio Freedom League which we feel helped us win this concession, after years of effort to no avail."

$68,706 have been pledged so far for the new site and building for VANCOUVER. However, it is reported that there is still "a long way to go before a new Unitarian Church is built in Vancouver." Nevertheless a "site committee" is actively investigating possible sites for the new Church.

The newsletter of the LIVERMORE (California, U.S.A.) Unitarian Fellowship (L.U.F.) is known as the Lufletter."

American Unitarians are "facing this greatest challenge of the century": the need for $3,800,000 for the United Unitarian Agencies and the American Unitarian Association Development Fund.

HOME CHURCHES

Mr. Martin Davies, B.A., National Secretary of the U.Y.P.L., addressed a Public Meeting at STAND on January 20th, on the theme "The Task Before Us."

Mrs. M. C. Topping has given four chairs to Christ Church, BRIDGWATER. Two have been placed in the recess in the front pew, and one on either side of the communion table.

COLLUMPTON is taking an active part in the local effort for World Refugee Year. Mr. W. E. Woolcott, a member of the congregation, is chairman of the local committee.

The Christmas Sale of Work at TORQUAY raised a record £90.

The 1959 Talent Scheme at TROWBRIDGE raised £74. A sale of renovated second-hand toys showed a profit of £30.

The Church of the Messiah, BIRMINGHAM, has been redecorated.

MALVERN Fellowship held a very successful public meeting in Decem-

r. Mr. R. Sorenson, M.P., was evented from coming at the last nute and the Rev. H. L. Short, of anchester College, Oxford, took s place.

An "Observer" advertisement s brought a new family to St. ark's, EDINBURGH—husband and fe members, two children in the P.L. and two more in Sunday hool.

December, 1959, saw Volume One, mber One of the S.U.Y., "Scottish nitarian Youth." If all goes well will be published bi-monthly and stributed free.

The appeal for £15,000 to build a urch at SPEKE had reached ,583 at the beginning of Decem- r. Have you responded to the peal in the December issue of the *nitarian*?

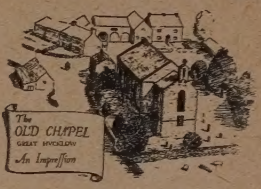
The preacher at BROOKFIELD urch Anniversary Service in cember was the Right Honour- le J. Chuter Ede whose parlia- ntary duties had prevented him ming in his Presidential Year. ie Men's Annual Service was a usical Service with the Gorton ale Voice Choir taking part.

On Saturday, February 13th, there ll be a Conference on "The Mean- g of Unitarian Religion" at ESTON. After devotions at 2 p.m. ere will be talks and discussions "Faith" (Dr. Verona M. Con- y) "Commitment" (Mr. K. S. apson) and "Mission" (Rev. T. Wardle).

At SCARBOROUGH carols were ng by children who walked round e darkened Church carrying ches. The retiring collection for orld Refugee Year realised £8 10s. MONTON had retiring collections December that raised £7 10s.— the Oxford Committee for mine Relief. The Women's ague has sent several bales of thing through the W.V.S., and 3 to the Relief Fund for Refugee ildren.

Christmas Day Appeal at OSSLEY for World Refugees

Northern S.S. Federation
UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES



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MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND THE SPIRIT OF MAN

by **C. O. Rhodes, M.A.**
(Essex Hall Lecture, 1959).
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The Lindsey Press, Essex Hall, 1-6, Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

realised £13. An anonymous Father Christmas provided certain members with bags of coal for Christmas.

KENDAL Christmas celebrations included a Nativity Play performed by all the members of the Sunday School, in the Chapel. The new lighting installed at the time of the recent renovation was used to good effect to illuminate the stable constructed at the centre of the chapel and to dramatise the entry of the players from various parts of the building. An overflow of guests stayed for a fellowship tea following the performance.

The Mayor read the lesson at the Christmas Service at ILFORD. The day following the service the children distributed gifts to elderly people. A Chinese hut was erected in connection with the Mayor's Refugee Fund.

The MILL HILL, Leeds, Refugee Fund stands at nearly £100.

The North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission celebrated its centenary at BURY in December. The service in the morning was conducted by the Rev. E. G. Lee, Editor of the "Inquirer" and the speakers at the afternoon meeting included the President of the General Assembly who spoke about the G.A. and District Associations.

Unusual news comes from RICHMOND. A new and most efficient heating system has been installed and in response to the appeal for £400 to cover the cost the Treasurer has received nearly £500.

The FLOWERY FIELD, Hyde, Christmas Fair raised £643. It was opened by Lord Ashton of Hope, Chairman was Lt. Col. O. L. Jacks. Mrs. Sidebottom sold over £291 worth of coupons.

Every Wednesday, from January to May, members of the Women's League at KNUTSFORD will be receiving clothes at the school for Refugees.

A social Meeting and a Sewing Party, each to be held once a month are two new ventures at DITCHLING.

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